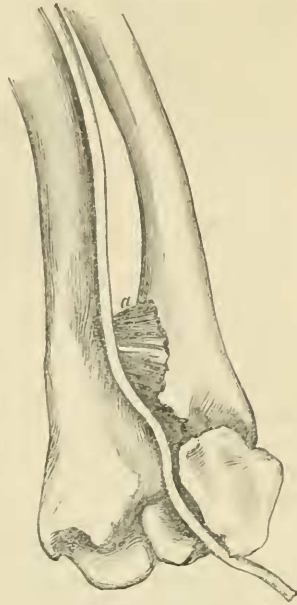


was no muscle corresponding to this in *Sarcophilus* or in any of the other marsupials dissected.

In both the Wombat and *Sarcophilus*, as well as in *Phalangista* and *Perameles*, there exists a transverse tibio-fibular muscle, homotypical with the pronator quadratus, quite separate from the prolonged popliteus, and similar to the transverse muscle of the Alligator, Crocodile, Iguana, and other reptiles: the muscle was described by Professor Owen as an aborted flexor digitorum communis longus; but a careful study of its properties would scarcely confirm this view. When considered in relation to the peroneo-calcanean muscle of human anatomy, its position with regard to the quadrate pronator seems to be definite. I append a sketch of this muscle as it exists in the Alligator, which is characteristic of its relationship.



Hind leg of Alligator.  
a, pronator quadratus.

On the sole of the foot in the Devil and Wombat the following muscles are seen—abductor hallucis, abductor minimi digiti, showing nothing peculiar; and behind the last there lies a small abductor ossis metatarsi minimi digiti, in *Sarcophilus*.

The plantar interossei are three in number, attached respectively to the second, third, and fourth toes, from the corresponding metatarsal bone. The dorsal interossei are abductors of the first, second, and fourth digits, and have double origins.

## XVII.—Descriptions of three new Species of Birds from China.

By ROBERT SWINHOE, F.Z.S.

### Family Rallidæ.

*Porzana mandarina*, sp. nov.

Crown, hind neck, and upper parts deep brownish olive, ruddy on the forehead. Throat pure white. Eyebrow, the whole face, neck, and breast to the middle of the belly ferru-

ginous chestnut, mixed on the last with white. Belly, axillaries, and under tail-coverts light black banded with white; tibial feathers pure white. Quills and tail olive-brown, the outer feather of the former with its outer web white; feathers of the wing-coverts marked with narrow waves of white, with brown lower edgings. Bill olive-green, yellow at tip of lower mandible. Irides light brownish crimson. Legs ochreous yellow tinged with green; claws browner.

Length about 9 inches; wing 5·1; tail 2·4, of eight soft, slightly graduated feathers; bill to gape 1·2, to forehead ·9, depth at base ·35; bare part of tibia ·5; tarse 1·6; middle toe 1·6, its claw ·3.

The above description is taken from a male bird shot in spring, in company with a male *Porzana fusca* (Linn.), on the Canton River.

It differs from *P. ceylonica* (Gmel.) of Southern India in wanting the rufous on the crown and hind neck, by the white marks on its wing-coverts, in having a white edge to its outer quill, by its white tibial feathers, and by the absence of white on the inner quills.

*Porzana euryzona* (Temm.) of Singapore has white spots and bands on the wing-coverts and quills. The black belly-bands extend up to the breast. The crown and hind neck are red, and the bird generally is very rufescent and smaller. The British Museum has a third species from the Philippines, and a fourth from the Sula Islands.

#### Family Paridæ.

Genus SIVA, Hodgson.

*Siva torqueola*, sp. nov.

Crown with broad longish feathers, greyish brown, each feather edged with bluish grey, and having a pale stem. From the base of the under mandible, under the eye, and round the nape runs a broad line of chestnut-brown, most of the feathers having a central white streak. Back, scapulars, and rump olive-brown, with shafts of most of the feathers of the two former whitish. Tail-coverts of a deeper hue. Under parts white tinged with bluish grey; tibials deep olive-brown, the same colour of a lighter shade marking the ventral flanks, and more slightly, and in the form of obscure bars, the sides of the breast. Vent-feathers blackish brown, with shafts and broad tips of white. Axillaries white, with a brown and white barred carpal edge. Under edges of quills pale salmon-colour. Wing-feathers hair-brown, margined with reddish olive, the

three inner tertiaries having white shafts and margins. Tail deep hair-brown, the four outer rectrices being tipped with white increasing outwardly, and on the two outermost including the outer web. Bill light brown. Legs, toes, and claws brownish flesh-colour.

Length about 5 inches; wing 2·7; tail 2·4; bill to gape ·55, breadth at base ·22; tarse ·66. The tarse is thick, and the hind toe and claw strong; the other claws are smaller, cultrated, well curved, and sharp.

*Wing.* The third quill, which is slightly longer than the fourth, is the longest in the wing; the first is ·45 shorter, and the second ·1 shorter than the third.

*Tail* consists of twelve broad, greatly graduated feathers; the fifth and sixth rectrices are nearly equal in length; the first is ·72 shorter, the second ·35, the third ·2, the fourth ·1.

The two specimens from which this description is taken were obtained in the Tingchow Mountains, about 100 miles from Amoy (China).

#### Family Brachypodidæ.

##### *Ixus Andersoni*, sp. nov.

Crown composed of rather long, soft feathers, black, which colour runs under the eye, and from the base of the bill forms a short moustache. At the base of the lower mandible occurs a minute blood-coloured spot. Upper parts light brown, very pale on the cheeks. Throat and under-neck white. A band of light brown about half an inch in depth crosses the breast. Tibials the same colour. Under parts cream-colour, tinged with brown on the flanks. Vent light orange or golden yellow, a touch of the same appearing on the lower edge of the wing. Wing-feathers deep hair-brown, margined with light brown tinged with olive. Tail also dark hair-brown, narrowly tipped with white, which soon disappears from abrasion of the feathers. Bill and feet black. Iris deep brown.

Length about 7 inches; wing 3·4; tail 3·7; bill to forehead ·53, to rictus ·7; tarse ·8. The sexes do not differ in colour or size.

I found this species common about Ichang, 1000 miles up the river Yangtse (China). Dr. Anderson of Calcutta procured the same bird on the western borders of the province of Yunnan, entering by the Burmese side. I saw his specimen in the collection he sent to England with Mr. Blanford; and as Dr. Anderson procured the species before myself, I feel in justice bound to dedicate it to him.